

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SY-10

USSH-00 SCCT-02 DOTE-00 CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11 DRC-01

/130 W

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O P 061242Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7316

FAA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

UNCLAS PARIS 5619

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS ETRN FR TU

SUBJECT TURKISH AIRLINES CRASH

REF PARIS 5410

1. AMID CONTINUING SPECULATION IN FRENCH PRESS THAT EXPLOSION ABOARD TURKISH AIRLINES DC-10 MAY HAVE CAUSED MARCH 3 CRASH, RENE LEMAIRE, HEAD OF GOF INVESTIGATING TEAM, SAID ON TV EVENING MARCH 5 THAT IN HIS OPINION SABOTAGE WAS NOT MOST PROBABLE CAUSE OF CRASH. HE ADDED THAT EYEWITNESSES HAD INDICATED THAT AIRCRAFT SEEMED INTACT JUST PRIOR TO CRASH. LEMAIRE SAID AIRCRAFT CAME DOWN INTO FOREST NOT AT SHARP ANGLE (CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORT MENTIONED PARA 4 REFTTEL) AND COULD HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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DISINTEGRATED ON IMPACT WITH FORCE OF AN EXPLOSION.

ALSO, THIRD ENGINE MOUNTED HIGH ON TAIL OF DC-10 COULD HAVE HAD "PISTON EFFECT" CONTRIBUTING TO EXPLOSIVE EFFECT OF IMPACT. (DISINTEGRATION OF AIRCRAFT -- AND ITS OCCUPANTS -- WAS ALMOST COMPLETE.) WITH REGARD TO DC-10'S CARGO DOOR WHICH WAS FOUND WITH SOME BODIES AND SEATS FROM DC-10 ABOUT FIFTEEN KILOMETERS SHORT OF CRASH SITE (EYEWITNESS HAS REPORTED SEEING BODIES AND DEBRIS FALLING), LEMAIRE SAID THAT ON VISUAL EXAMINATION DOOR SHOWED NO SIGNS OF EXPLOSION. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, LABORATORY ANALYSIS WOULD BE CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER TRACES OF EXPLOSIVE ARE NONETHELESS TO BE FOUND ON DOOR.

2. FRANCE-SOIR OF MARCH 5 CARRIES DRAWING OF TAIL SECTION OF DC-10 AND ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE SPECULATES THAT EXPLOSION IN BAGGAGE WHOLD, PUNCTURING OF FUSELAGE BY COMPRESSOR BLADE FROM TAIL ENGINE OR EXPLOSION OF SMALL SERVICE MOTOR IN TAIL SECTION COULD EXPLAIN LOSS OF BAGGAGE DOOR AND EJECTION OF SOME PASSENGERS PRIOR TO ACTUAL CRASH. LAST NOVEMBER'S ACCIDENT INVOLVING NATIONAL AIRLINES' DC-10 IS MENTIONED IN THIS REGARD. LE FIGARO ON MARCH 6 WRITES ALONG SIMILAR LINES, AND WHILE ITS ARTICLE TOO COVERS THE RANGE OF POSSIBLE SPECULATION INCLUDING SABOTAGE TITLE POINTS TO LIKELIHOOD OF EXPLOSION IN BAGGAGE HOLD. LE FIGARO ALSO PUBLISHES INTERVIEW WITH MAURICE BELLONTE, WHO FOR MANY YEARS HEADED GOF CIVAIR SAFETY COMMISSION. BELLONTE SAID THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH FAIRLY RAPIDLY WHETHER ENGINES WERE AT FAULT THOUGH HE WAS INCLINED DOUBT THAT THIS HAD BEEN THE CASE. FOR BELLONTE THE MOST REVEALING EVIDENCE WOULD BE THE CARGO DOOR AND OTHER AIRCRAFT DEBRIS WHICH FELL SHORT OF THE CRASH SITE SINCE THIS DEBRIS HAD SEPARATED FROM THE AIRCRAFT AT THE TIME CORRESPONDING TO THE ORIGIN OF THE ACCIDENT.

3. MAURICE GRIMAUD, GOF SECRETARY GENERAL OF CIVIL UNCLASSIFIED

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AVIATION, HAS SAID IN PRESS AND TV INTERVIEW THAT SINCE LAST DECEMBER AT REQUEST OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT ALL TURKISH AIRLINES PLANES HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER POLICE GUARD WHILE AT FRENCH AIRPORTS. GRIMAUD SAID THAT ALL 216 PASSENGERS EMBARKING IN PARIS ON LAST SUNDAY'S TURKISH AIRLINES FLIGHT HAD BEEN SEARCHED PRIOR TO BOARDING, INCLUDING HAND LUGGAGE. BAGGAGE IN HOLD HAD NOT BEEN SEARCHED, HOWEVER, SINCE

NORMALLY THIS OPERATION IS CARRIED OUT ONLY AT EXPRESS REQUEST OF AIRLINE. (SGAC HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT PASSENGERS IN TRANSIT FROM ISTANBUL DISEMBARKED DURING PARIS STOP BUT WERE KEPT SEGREGATED IN STERILE AREA UNDER SUPERVISION OF ARMED GUARDS.)

4. GRIMAUD ALSO INDICATED THAT RECORDED CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN PILOT AND FRENCH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL REVEAL THAT AIRCRAFT HAD REACHED ALTITUDE OF 4,00 METERS AND PILOT HAD REPORTED NOTHING ABNORMAL.

5. GOF HAS ANNOUNCED THAT AS SIGN OF MOURNING FOR CRASH VICTIMS PRESIDENT POMPIDOU WILL NOT ATTEND MARCH 8 CEREMONY INAUGURATING NEW CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT OUTSIDE PARIS BUT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY PRIME MINISTER MESSMER.  
STONE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, DEATHS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2002  
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**TAGS:** ETRN, FR, TU, TURKISH AIRLINES  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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